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Article 6 of the Convention

Report on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This report presents information on the efforts of Parties, civil society, academia, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector to enhance stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention at the international, regional and national levels. It highlights good practices, challenges and opportunities for stakeholder engagement, drawing upon information contained in national communications, reports of regional workshops on the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, the climate change information network clearing house CC:iNet, a survey conducted by the secretariat in 2014 and other relevant sources. Parties may wish to consider information in this report with a view to identifying approaches and means to advance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. The report will also be used as a background document for the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention.

* This document was submitted after the due date to take into account responses submitted by Parties to a survey conducted by the secretariat.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–4	3
	A. Mandate	1–2	3
	B. Scope of the report	3	3
	C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation	4	4
II.	Good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention	5–70	4
	A. Good practices at the international level	5–28	4
	B. Good practices at the national and local levels	29–70	8
III.	Challenges and opportunities	71–72	14

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 15/CP.18, annex, paragraph 35(a), requested the secretariat to, inter alia, prepare a report on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention.[1]

2. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its thirty-ninth session, specified that the report is to be made available for consideration at SBI 40[2] and further used as a background document for the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention, to be convened during SBI 40.[3]

B. Scope of the report

3. This report summarizes information on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention by drawing on the following sources:

(a) Report on progress made in, and the effectiveness of, the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention;[4]

(b) Information shared at regional workshops on the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention;[5]

(c) National communications submitted after 2011;[6]

(d) Information available through the climate change information network clearing house CC:iNet;[7]

(e) Synthesis report on ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations;[8]

(f) Report on the in-session workshop to further develop ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations;[9]

(g) Materials produced by members of the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness;[10]

(h) Responses provided by national focal points for Article 6 of the Convention to an online survey conducted by the secretariat in 2014;

(i) Relevant official United Nations documentation.

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[1] The COP requested that this report be prepared taking into account information presented in documents FCCC/SBI/2010/16, "Synthesis report on ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations", and FCCC/SBI/2011/INF.7, "Report on the in-session workshop to further develop ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations".

[2] FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraph 200(b).

[3] FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraph 196.

[4] FCCC/SBI/2012/3.

[5] <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/3143.php>.

[6] Forty-one national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and 42 national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

[7] <http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/items/3514.php>.

[8] FCCC/SBI/2010/16.

[9] FCCC/SBI/2011/INF.7.

[10] <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/7403.php>.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

4. The SBI may wish to consider information contained in this report with a view to identifying further steps to enhance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. The SBI may wish to further use this report as a background document for the 2nd Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention.

II. Good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

A. Good practices at the international level

1. Mechanisms for promoting stakeholder participation in various international agreements and processes

5. Agenda 21,[11] endorsed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, stresses the importance of enhancing the participation of civil society to advance towards sustainable development. Section 3 of Agenda 21 recognizes nine major groups: women; children and youth; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); local authorities; workers and their trade unions; business and industry; the scientific and technological community; and farmers.

6. Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[12] stipulates that environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens. Therefore, access to information, participation in the decision-making process and access to judicial and administrative proceedings on environmental matters shall be ensured.

7. The 1998 Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)[13] is the first legally-binding instrument for implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. The Aarhus Convention grants the public rights and imposes obligations on governmental authorities regarding, inter alia, public participation in environmental decision-making. As at January 2014, 46 countries had ratified the Aarhus Convention.[14]

8. In 2005, Parties to the Aarhus Convention adopted the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums.[15] These guidelines encourage the introduction of balanced and equitable processes for public participation in international forums as well as the design of mechanisms to promote transparency, minimize inequality, avoid the exercise of undue economic or political influence, and facilitate the participation of those constituencies that are most directly affected and might not have the means for participation without encouragement and support.

9. A Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making[16] was established under the Aarhus Convention in 2010 to facilitate the sharing of expertise and good practices and

[11] <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>.
[12] <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1>.
[13] <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/treatytext.html>.
[14] <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html>.
[15] <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ppif.html>.
[16] Decision EMP.II/1 of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention; available at <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ppdm.html>.

to provide recommendations on strengthening civil society participation and building the capacity of public authorities and other stakeholders.

10. Pilot projects have been carried out in nine countries[17] to prepare national profiles and action plans for implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.[18] The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) provided methodological support and financial resources for implementing these pilot projects through a country-driven approach with the engagement of governments and civil society.

11. A Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[19] was signed by 10 countries[20] on the margins of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) with the aim of initiating a formal process to develop a regional instrument or a convention open to all countries for fostering access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

12. The Convention on Biological Diversity[21] (CBD) encourages Parties to enhance the effective participation of indigenous and local communities and women at the local level. The Conference of the Parties to the CBD established a voluntary funding mechanism[22] to facilitate the participation of indigenous and local communities in meetings under the CBD. A selection committee, including representatives of indigenous and local communities, was established to select beneficiaries of the fund. [23]

13. Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[24] have agreed that decisions on the design and implementation of programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought should be taken with the participation of populations, local communities and the private sector.[25]

14. Many countries organized national consultations in the lead-up to Rio+20 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where various stakeholders were brought together. Key issues related to sustainable development were discussed and it was demonstrated that enhancing stakeholder participation at the national level plays an important role in defining national strategic objectives and policies.

15. Public consultations were also conducted in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014.[26] The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as the lead agency of the Decade, organized national, regional and international consultations towards defining a global action programme on education for sustainable development after 2014. During these consultations climate change education has been identified as a priority.

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[17] Botswana, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mali, Nicaragua and Panama.

[18] <http://www.unitar.org/egp/rio-principle-10-projects>.

[19] <http://www.eclac.org/rio20/noticias/paginas/8/48588/Declaracion-eng-N1244043.pdf>.

[20] Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

[21] <http://www.cbd.int/convention/parties/list/default.shtml>.

[22] CBD decision VII/16, section G, paragraph 10; available at <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=7753>.

[23] <http://www.cbd.int/traditional/fund.shtml>.

[24] <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/conventionText/conv-eng.pdf>.

[25] <ttp://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Partnerships/Business%20Engagement%20Strategy%20and%20Guidelines.pdf>.

[26] <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-sustainable-development/about-us/>.

16. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals have served as a milestone in global development since their inception in 2000. To guarantee a broadly consultative process to support the design of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda,[27] the United Nations Development Group launched a set of 11 thematic consultations and national consultations in more than 60 countries jointly organized by various United Nations entities with support from civil society organizations and other stakeholders. Moreover, the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum[28] was established as a multistakeholder platform to spur debate on national policies that have succeeded in advancing development goals.

2. Stakeholder participation in the UNFCCC intergovernmental process in implementing Article 6 of the Convention[29]

17. Parties have recognized the fundamental value of effective participation by observer organizations, both in the UNFCCC process and in responding to climate change. They have enhanced stakeholder participation in the UNFCCC process over decades and put in place various good practices at the intergovernmental level. These include presiding officers opening to observer organizations the initial and closing meetings of the informal consultations on agenda items where a contact group was not established; making draft negotiation texts available; and permitting interventions by observer organizations in plenary meetings and selected contact groups when appropriate. Open dialogues or briefings with presiding officers, such as the series of special events with observers being held by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action and stakeholder engagement with the President of the COP and the Conference of the Parties serving as meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) during the joint high-level segment of sessions of the COP and the CMP, have become customary.

18. Good practices of stakeholder participation are not, however, limited to the in-session period or to on-site events at the conference venues. There is an increasing number of intersessional workshops and meetings of expert bodies that are open to observer organizations, as well as opportunities to make presentations at workshops. Partnerships of organizations from all levels and sectors under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change[30] and their contributions to its implementation are considered to be an example of effective engagement. Governments hosting sessions of the COP and the CMP are increasingly engaging stakeholders in the lead-up to the sessions and providing a space for the general public for raising awareness and promoting climate change education outside the main conference venue. To enable greater stakeholder participation in the UNFCCC process, submissions from observer organizations and other organizations are received and posted on the UNFCCC website regardless of the specific mandate, and the accessibility to such submissions by Parties on the website has significantly improved. Inputs from observer organizations are also used in the preparation of background documentation and publications by the secretariat.

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[27] <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/development-beyond-2015.html>.

[28] <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/dcf/index.shtml>.

[29] Taking into account information presented in documents FCCC/SBI/2010/16, "Synthesis report on ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations", and FCCC/SBI/2011/INF.7, "Report on the in-session workshop to further develop ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations".

[30] Decision 2/CP.11.

3. Stakeholder participation in deliberations on Article 6 of the Convention within the UNFCCC intergovernmental process

19. Observer organizations have actively participated in the consideration of issues relating to Article 6 of the Convention under the SBI and the COP, including through attendance and interventions at all contact group meetings and informal consultations, submissions published as web documents on the UNFCCC website and inputs to negotiating texts presented through Parties' interventions.

20. Furthermore, representatives of observer organizations attended and presented their experiences at the five regional workshops organized by the secretariat to support the review of the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and the six regional workshops to support the review of the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme.[31]

21. In 2012, observer organizations, especially youth NGOs (YOUNGO), worked closely with governments and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) on developing the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention,[32] which was adopted at COP 18.

22. More than 100 representatives of Parties, IGOs and NGOs shared their experiences regarding the implementation of climate change education and training and related international cooperation during the 1st Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention held on 10 and 11 June 2013 during SBI 38.[33] Experts, practitioners and the general public from multiple locations also followed the Dialogue through the webcast.

23. CC:iNet, hosted by the secretariat, is a web platform designed to promote the sharing of information, publications, materials and activities led by governments, organizations and practitioners on Article 6 of the Convention. Many NGOs have contributed awareness and educational materials to this platform.

4. Children and youth participation in Article 6 activities

24. In response to a request by the COP,[34] the secretariat continues its work on the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change to enhance the involvement and participation of children and youth in Article 6 activities and their attendance at intergovernmental meetings, including sessions of the COP. The Joint Framework Initiative is a partnership between 15 United Nations and intergovernmental entities, youth-focused NGOs and YOUNGO.

25. In June 2013, the Joint Framework Initiative launched its latest flagship publication *Youth in Action on Climate Change: Inspirations from Around the World*,[35] which is designed as a tool and source of inspiration for developing and carrying out projects to increase awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change, promote sustainable lifestyles and advance climate-resilient low-emission development. The publication is available in all United Nations languages.

26. The Join Framework Initiative has been actively involved in the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development since its inception in 2010,[36] contributed to the development and implementation of the United Nations System-wide

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[31] <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/3143.php>.
[32] Decision 15/CP.18, annex.
[33] <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/7670.php>.
[34] Decision 15/CP.18, annex, paragraph 35(f).
[35] <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/publication_youth_2013.pdf>.
[36] <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/UNInterAgencyNetworkonYouthDevelopment.aspx>.

Action Plan on Youth[37] and closely collaborated with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.[38]

27. The secretariat fosters the inclusive and effective participation of youth in the intergovernmental climate change process by organizing dialogues between youth and key negotiators; briefings with chairs of constituted bodies; side events and other activities during the annual Young and Future Generations Day; fundraising for the participation of representatives from youth networks in developing countries; the facilitation of virtual participation at UNFCCC conferences; and the provision of physical and virtual space for showcasing climate action by young people.

28. The secretariat hosts the Youth Portal[39] on CC:iNet for outreach activities by young people and promotes youth-led action through UNFCCC social media outlets.

B. Good practices at the national and local levels

1. Legal frameworks for fostering public participation in climate change policymaking and action

29. Parties recognize that the effectiveness of public participation depends on having laws and regulations in place that contain provisions on access to information, decision-making processes and the justice system.

30. Many countries have included in their constitutions the right to a healthy environment and the right to participate in decision-making on environmental matters. Some countries, including the Dominican Republic and Ecuador, have integrated climate change related issues into their constitutions. Furthermore, constitutional mechanisms such as public consultations and legislative initiatives led by local communities have been established in a number of countries for enhancing public participation in sustainable development issues.

31. An example of a legislative effort that promotes gender sensitivity and enhances the participation of women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities is the General Law on Climate Change of Mexico adopted in 2012. Article 2.V stipulates that one of the objectives of this law is to promote climate change education. The law also contains a chapter on social participation and emphasizes the importance of promoting public participation in its various articles.

32. Some countries have adopted sectoral laws on the environment, energy, health and agriculture, which contain references to climate change and the fostering of awareness-raising, training and participation of local communities in a decision-making process. Many countries have integrated environmental education and/or education on sustainable development into their national education laws and have taken steps to promote the participation of NGOs, youth organizations and local communities in non-formal education activities.

33. UNDP and the European Union are supporting Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy, a project which aims at building the capacity of parliamentarians and strengthening their advocacy to promote renewable energy and combat climate change.

[37] <http://www.undg.org/docs/13099/UN%20System-wide%20Action%20Plan%20on%20Youth%20%283%29.pdf>.

[38] <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/>.

[39] <http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/youth_portal/items/6578.php>.

2. Institutional structures, procedures and mechanisms for enabling intersectoral and multi-stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

34. Many countries have institutional structures in place which provide a platform for enhancing intersectoral and multi-stakeholder action to address climate change. These institutional structures include councils, interministerial committees and commissions. Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay have each created a national system to facilitate the coordination between different levels of governance, economic sectors and stakeholders.

35. Climate change councils have been established recently in Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Spain and Viet Nam, among others. An example of a governmental agency that works to engage stakeholders in the decision-making process is the National Council of Ecological Transition in France. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Ecology and has 50 members representing local authorities, inter-professional unions, environmental associations and parliamentarians.

36. Parties recognize the importance of strengthening communication channels between scientists and decision makers. Finland has created an interdisciplinary climate panel, which promotes debate on climate change and increases awareness of scientific facts to support informed decision-making.

37. Multi-stakeholder networks also serve as a mechanism for improving synergy, avoiding duplication of effort and improving the effectiveness in the implementation of Article 6. Spain has created a participatory network, which includes stakeholders from national government, local administration, business, NGOs, regional government and academia. Various outreach materials and training courses on climate change have been developed through this network.

38. The Doha work programme invites Parties to designate and provide support, including technical and financial support, and access to information and materials to a national focal point for Article 6.[40] As at March 2014, 81 Parties had appointed such national focal points.[41]

39. Trinidad and Tobago, following the adoption of its National Climate Change Policy, initiated the appointment of focal points for multilateral environmental agreements with particular focus on climate change in all government agencies, statutory bodies, academia, the private sector, industry, NGOs and community-based organizations. More than 120 nominations of focal points have been secured and a network of focal points has been established with a view to consolidating efforts to address climate change, including the collection of data and information to facilitate the preparation of national communications.

3. Public participation in the development of national strategies and action plans on Article 6 of the Convention

40. The Doha work programme invites Parties to prepare a national strategy on Article 6 of the Convention according to their national circumstances.[42] Some countries have reported that they have developed a national strategy through a multi-stakeholder participatory process with the involvement of NGOs, the private sector, local governments and communities.

41. UN CC:Learn,[43] a partnership of 33 multilateral organizations, has been supporting pilot projects in five countries[44] in designing and implementing national results-oriented

[40] Decision 15/CP.18, annex, paragraph 22(a).

[41] <http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/focal_points/items/6833.php>.

[42] Decision 15/CP.18, annex, paragraph 22(d).

[43] <http://www.unccclearn.org>.

[44] Benin, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malawi and Uganda.

climate change learning strategies. The methodology used is based on a participatory planning approach and a comprehensive assessment of climate change learning needs among different stakeholders.

42. The Dominican Republic was the first among the UN CC:Learn pilot countries to launch its national strategy to strengthen human resources and skills to advance green, low-emission and climate-resilient development in 2012. A national implementation platform has been established to ensure the continued engagement of a broad range of stakeholders in carrying out activities under the national strategy.

43. Indonesia's national climate change learning strategy was developed through a series of multi-stakeholder consultations and workshops organized between 2012 and 2013 with the participation of representatives of various governmental departments, the private sector, United Nations agencies, universities, development partners and NGOs. Enacted through a presidential decree in 2013, the strategy regulates the process of strengthening the capacity of individuals, institutions and systems to implement policies and programmes relevant to the priority areas in the national action plan on climate change adaptation and the national action plan on greenhouse gas emission reduction.

44. Some countries have integrated actions to implement Article 6 of the Convention in their national climate change strategies. Costa Rica's national strategy on climate change, which was adopted in 2009 with the aim of mobilizing efforts towards becoming the first carbon-neutral country by 2021, contains a section on Article 6 of the Convention with specific actions for each of its elements. Education, culture, public awareness and public participation as cross-cutting aspects are featured throughout the strategy.

4. Mechanisms for incorporating stakeholder inputs into the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects relating to Article 6 of the Convention

45. Parties have reported on various approaches to incorporating stakeholder inputs into the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects relating to Article 6 of the Convention, such as dialogues between governments and stakeholders, forums, meetings, focal groups and round tables.

46. In Australia, regular meetings known as community cabinets take place around the country to discuss governmental initiatives and policies with local communities. These meetings provide a regular opportunity for local communities to express their views regarding public policies.

47. Swaziland organized climate change dialogues in two stages: as regional dialogues in the four geographical regions of the country and as a two-day national dialogue where different stakeholders shared views on possible measures to address climate change. This initiative aimed to foster behavioural change by encouraging action by individuals to reduce the carbon footprint.

5. Training programmes to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to participate in decision-making processes

48. The Doha work programme calls on Parties to integrate climate change issues into school curricula and develop other activities relating to climate change learning and skills development.[45]

49. Parties, IGOs, NGOs, academia, the private sector, local governments and community-based organizations have organized various training activities such as workshops, seminars, conferences and symposiums on climate change. Furthermore,

[45] Decision 15/CP.18, annex, paragraph 22(g).

training materials such as toolkits, publications, multimedia, posters and videos have been produced and disseminated.

50. Armenia has been working to introduce climate change into the national educational curricula. It has also developed educational modules on climate change for universities; produced an "ABC on climate change" textbook for secondary schools; organized seminars for farmers on climate change risks in agriculture; conducted conferences on renewable energy and training courses for journalists; and rolled out a summer school for primary school students.

51. UNESCO supports countries in integrating its Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development programme into their education policies and strategies and runs a set of country programmes, which include training of educators, education planners and policymakers.[46]

52. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works within the Child-Friendly School model for quality education as an entry point for adaptation to climate change by training children to participate in democratically designed decision-making methodologies from an early age. In the East Asia and the Pacific region, UNICEF supports child-led hazard and vulnerability mapping, which aims to teach children about climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and facilitate their participation in local planning. Hazard mapping has been linked to local government planning processes in a number of countries within this region, such as Nepal and Sri Lanka.

53. Various online courses have been developed by governments, IGOs and NGOs, including an open online course on climate change by the World Bank Institute,[47] the introductory course on climate change by UNITAR[48] and the climate change education course for teachers by UNESCO.[49]

54. The United States of America has created a climate literacy framework,[50] a guide that aims to promote climate science awareness by providing an educational framework of principles and concepts. This guide assists educators who teach climate science in meeting content standards in their curricula. The development of the guide began at a workshop with many science agencies, NGOs and numerous individuals contributing to its preparation and review.

55. Journalists have been trained in understanding climate change issues and effectively communicating them to the public as part of the UNDP Africa Adaptation Programme. The programme started with training senior journalists from 20 African countries who then passed on the acquired knowledge during national climate change journalism workshops and reached out to various media-related stakeholders and constituents, including editors, journalism schools and government.

56. In Viet Nam, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women has been strengthening women's capacity in disaster risk reduction and preparedness through a project that includes the establishment of a pool of women leaders trained at the community level by using education and communications materials such as

[46] In 2012–2013, pilot programmes were implemented in the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa and Tuvalu. In 2014, country programmes will be launched in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal and the Philippines.

[47] <http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/es/stories/take-mooc-climate-change-starting-january-27-2014>.

[48] <http://unccelearn.org>.

[49] <http://portal.unesco.org/geography/en/ev.php-URL_ID=16440&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html>.

[50] *Climate Literacy: The Essential Principles of Climate Science*; available at <http://downloads.globalchange.gov/Literacy/climate_literacy_highres_english.pdf>.

radio programmes, leaflets and posters. This project has enhanced women's participation in decision-making on climate change related issues at the local level, in particular through the Committees for Floods and Storm Control and dialogues with policymakers on gender, climate change and natural disasters.

57. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization lead the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) programme, which aims to empower vulnerable youth by providing them with the livelihood options and gender-sensitive skills needed for long-term food security. A JFFLS module dedicated to climate change has been launched, targeting JFFLS facilitators and providing them with the information and exercises needed to convey climate-coping agricultural strategies to young people (15–24 years of age) from rural areas. The climate change module has been pilot-tested in Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania.

6. Access to information and communication mechanisms for fostering an effective and meaningful stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

58. Parties recognize that public access to information on matters relating to climate change is essential for an effective participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes and for mobilizing climate action. Governments and NGOs have used various channels and mechanisms such as websites, newsletters, scientific and technical publications, radio and television programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops to facilitate public access to information.

59. Germany launched the *Energiewende* campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the country's new energy policy and its importance through nationwide outdoor advertising. Elements of the campaign include a series of publications and an online advisory and information service on energy saving, which is advertised by the federal government in daily and weekly newspapers.

60. In Sweden, the environmental authorities have created databases that are accessible to the public through the Internet. Information about the state of the environment is freely available through the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency website. The "Emissions in figures" website contains a database of emissions from approximately 1,000 of the largest enterprises in Sweden whose business may be classified as environmentally hazardous.

61. Some Parties also commented on the benefits of disseminating the findings of their national communications at all levels. New Zealand publishes 'emissions snapshots' summarizing its greenhouse gas inventories, which are large technical documents, in language that is accessible and understandable to a wider audience.

62. Parties recognize the important role that web-based platforms and social media play in promoting public participation by providing easy access to up-to-date information, facilitating exchange of views and showcasing success stories. "A world you like. With a climate you like",[51] a European Union public climate change communication campaign, was conducted in 2011–2012 with a focus on practical solutions to reduce emissions. The campaign's central message was that making the transition to a low-emission society is not only urgent but also feasible, affordable and necessary to enhance the quality of life.

63. The campaign was centred on an interactive, user-friendly website in 23 languages which featured background information on a low-emission society, videos of success stories for each member State and information on the campaign events and partner organizations. A key tool for getting people involved in the campaign was a contest for the best climate solutions in which a shortlist was drawn up on the basis of a public vote. A

[51] <http://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/aworldyoulike/index_en.htm>.

total of 269 projects were entered in the competition and more than 230,000 votes were cast.

64. Connect4Climate[52] is an initiative of the World Bank Group, which aims to create a global movement to combat climate change. With more than half a million followers on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media channels, Connect4Climate is building an ever-growing community of individuals around the world committed to climate change action. In less than three years, a network of more than 180 partners, including NGOs, youth networks, universities, schools, United Nations organizations, the private sector and the media, has been established.

7. Public participation in the preparation of national communications

65. Parties have been increasingly engaging national experts and other stakeholders in the preparation of their national communications. Many Parties reported on activities to implement Article 6 of the Convention in a separate chapter of their national communications; however, only a few Parties reported on all elements of Article 6, including on activities to enhance public participation.

66. Brazil established an inclusive consultation process for the review of its national communication, which included a line-by-line editing process similar to the review of reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This initiative emphasized the importance of engaging the public in the process of drafting national communications as a means of building national capacity and raising awareness of climate change.

67. The Gambia highlighted the involvement of communities and stakeholders in gathering data for the compilation of its national communications. Great importance was attached to the chapters on Article 6 of the Convention in its national communications, which contained data collected through consultations with, and questionnaires completed by, multiple stakeholders.

8. Mobilization of national and international resources for enhancing public participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

68. Access to adequate resources, including funding, is often a prerequisite for impactful long-term engagement of stakeholders in climate change decision-making and action.

69. As part of the Clean Energy Future Plan, Australia has established an Energy Efficiency Information Grants programme to assist industry associations and non-profit organizations that work with small and medium-sized businesses and community organizations to provide information on improving energy use. Under the first round of the programme, 28 organizations will receive around 20 million Australian dollars for these activities.

70. Another example of small grants that can empower stakeholders and promote their participation in implementing climate solutions is the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's Urban Youth Fund,[53] a global fund that supports projects in developing countries, which are youth-designed, youth-led and youth-implemented. Every year, more than 8,000 youth-led organizations apply for a grant of up to USD 25,000, with an average grant amount being USD 16,000. In addition to grants, the Urban Youth Fund empowers youth organizations through targeted training, capacity-building and mentorship programmes.

[52] <http://connect4climate.org>.

[53] <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=637>.

III. Challenges and opportunities

71. There appears to be a broad understanding among Parties that proactive support for public participation and access to information is crucial to engaging with and empowering a wide range of stakeholders in decision-making processes. However, despite the progress made, there are a number of barriers to the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, as reported in national communications and in the reports on the regional workshops.[54] These include lack of public awareness and knowledge, absence of institutional arrangements, inadequate funding, lack of human resources and insufficient coordination and cooperation between the authorities within the country.

72. The SBI may wish to provide guidance on ways to overcome these barriers with a view to further enhancing stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention.

[54] As footnote 5 above.

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Matters relating to the least developed countries

Report on the 25th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The 25th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) was held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, on 27 and 28 February 2014. At the meeting, progress on the implementation of the work programme of the LEG for 2013–2014 was reviewed, with a focus on the following activities: an update on national adaptation programmes of action; technical guidance and support to the least developed countries (LDCs) on national adaptation plans (NAPs); support of knowledge management and outreach in adaptation in the LDCs; development of information resources for strengthening gender considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs; a tool for the monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness of and gaps in NAPs; support for coherence and synergy of adaptation-related efforts under the Convention; and an update on collaboration with a wide range of organizations. It also presents the two-year rolling work programme of the LEG for 2014–2015.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Mandate	1–2	3
II.	Summary of the 25th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group	3–55	3
	A. Proceedings	3–5	3
	B. Status of preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action	6–9	4
	C. Training on national adaptation plans	10–12	4
	D. NAP Expo	13–16	5
	E. Supplementary materials for the technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process	17–19	6
	F. Technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan process	20–27	6
	G. Best practices and lessons learned	28–30	9
	H. Gender and other considerations regarding vulnerable communities within the least developed countries	31–34	9
	I. Monitoring and evaluation of the national adaptation plan process	35–37	10
	J. Support for coherence and synergy of adaptation under the Convention	38–46	10
	K. Mobilization of organizations, regional centres and networks	47–48	12
	L. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies	49–51	12
	M. In-depth case studies in the least developed countries	52–55	12
III.	Work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2014–2015	56–57	13

Annexes

I.	Two-year rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2014–2015	15
II.	Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 28 February 2014	19

I. Mandate

1. The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), in its current term (2011–2015), is mandated to provide technical support and advice to the least developed countries (LDCs) on national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the LDC work programme, and to provide technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan (NAP) process.[1]

2. The Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the LEG to develop a two-year rolling programme of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its first sessional meeting of each year, and to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions.[2]

II. Summary of the 25th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

3. The 25th meeting of the LEG was held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, on 27 and 28 February 2014, immediately following the LEG technical meeting on NAPs, which was held at the same location from 24 to 26 February 2014. The two meetings were jointly opened by Ms. Angelina Madete, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Vice-President's Office of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

4. During the meeting, the LEG focused its work on the following:

(a) An update on the status of preparation and implementation of NAPAs (see chapter II.B below);

(b) Technical guidance and support to the LDCs on NAPs through training on NAPs, the NAP Expo,[3] supplementary materials to the technical guidelines and in-depth case studies in the LDCs (see chapter II.C–F and II.M below);

(c) Support of knowledge management and outreach in adaptation in the LDCs through NAP Central, and the capturing and sharing of best practices and lessons learned (see chapter II.F and II.G below);

(d) Development of information resources for strengthening gender considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs (see chapter II.H below);

(e) Promotion of quality and achievement of results through development of a tool for the monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps for NAPs (see chapter II.I below);

(f) Support for coherence and synergy of adaptation-related efforts under the Convention (see chapter II.J below);

[1] Decisions 29/CP.7, 6/CP.16 and 5/CP.17.

[2] Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 3.

[3] Information on the NAP Expo held in June 2013 is available at <http://unfccc.int/7453>.

(g) Ongoing collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its agencies, and other organizations, in providing technical guidance and support to the LDCs (see chapter II.K and II.L below).

5. According to paragraph 5 of its terms of reference,[4] the LEG is to elect annually a chair, a vice-chair and two rapporteurs (anglophone and francophone) from among its LDC members. At its seventh meeting, the LEG also established the position of lusophone rapporteur.[5] At its 25th meeting the LEG elected the following officers:

(a) Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety (Nepal) as Chair;

(b) Mr. Abias Huongo (Angola) as Vice-Chair and lusophone Rapporteur;

(c) Mr. Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania) as anglophone Rapporteur;

(d) Mr. Paul Abiziou Tchinguilou (Togo) as francophone Rapporteur.

B. Status of preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

1. Status of preparation of national adaptation programmes of action

6. As at 28 February 2014, 50 LDCs had successfully completed preparation of their NAPAs, and submitted them to the secretariat.[6] The most recent NAPA was received from Equatorial Guinea in November 2013.

2. Status of implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

7. The GEF reported that, as at 27 February 2014, 49 LDCs had officially submitted NAPA implementation project proposals to it in the form of project identification forms, for approval for funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). Of these, 46 countries had submitted at least two projects and 37 countries had submitted three or more projects.

8. The GEF indicated that, in total, 139 projects (comprising seven medium-sized projects and 132 full-sized projects) had been approved by the GEF Council, with LDCF grants amounting to USD 757.66 million since 2007. Of the projects approved, 72 had been endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF and were under various stages of implementation.

9. The GEF further reported that, as at 31 January 2014, cumulative donor pledges to the LDCF had amounted to USD 878.93 million, and that the new ceiling for each LDC for implementing NAPA projects is USD 30 million, based on the principle of equitable access.

C. Training on national adaptation plans

10. The LEG will conduct regional training workshops on NAPs as part of its work programme for 2014–2015. The LEG decided that the overall objective of the training is to enhance the capacity of the LDCs to address medium- and long-term adaptation needs

[4] Decision 29/CP.7, annex.

[5] FCCC/SBI/2005/12, paragraph 3.

[6] This also includes Cabo Verde, Maldives and Samoa, which graduated out of the LDC category in December 2007, January 2011 and January 2014, respectively. The completed NAPAs are available at <http://unfccc.int/4585>.

through the formulation and implementation of NAPs. The workshops will be conducted in collaboration with a wide range of organizations, regional centres and networks specific to each region and the NAP global support programme for the LDCs. The first regional training workshop will be held in the Pacific region in the second half of 2014.[7]

11. The LEG further refined its approach to workshops by deciding that they will provide a platform for face-to-face learning and exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in addressing medium- and long-term adaptation. The LEG also discussed a list of topics for the learning materials for the workshops. The topics for each regional training workshop will be tailored to the needs, experiences, best practices of and lessons learned by the countries in that region.

12. In addition, the LEG further developed its strategy on training on NAPs. The strategy builds on the discussions from the 24th meeting of the LEG,[8] inputs from the technical meeting on NAPs, and the experiences of the LEG from previous regional training workshops. The strategy contains possible topics and modules on NAPs that could be delivered through different modalities such as regional training workshops, training of trainers, e-learning materials for self-paced training, online collaboration tools through NAP Central, and collaboration with relevant organizations and support programmes on NAPs.

D. NAP Expo

13. The LEG discussed the planning for the NAP Expo for 2014, building upon discussions at its 24th meeting, as part of the LEG activities on providing technical guidance and support to the NAP process.

14. The event will bring together the LDCs and other Parties, the GEF and its agencies, United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, multilateral and bilateral agencies, regional centres and networks and other international organizations, adaptation experts and practitioners.

15. The NAP Expo 2014 will further promote and mobilize actions and support for NAPs at the national levels by:

(a) Serving as a platform for the exchange of experience, best practices and lessons learned in medium- and long-term adaptation planning and implementation;

(b) Contributing to enhanced understanding of the NAP process;

(c) Sharing technical knowledge, including methods and tools on the key elements of the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(d) Offering a forum for country teams, organizations and agencies to exchange ideas and experiences on the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(e) Providing an opportunity for countries to communicate their progress and support received for the NAP process;

(f) Promoting networking among adaptation experts and practitioners;

(g) Providing a platform for agencies and organizations to share information on available support for the NAP process and the means to access the support.

[7] FCCC/SBI/2013/15, paragraph 20.
[8] FCCC/SBI/2013/15, paragraphs 18–21.

16. The NAP Expo 2014 will be organized through a support group composed of the LEG, the Adaptation Committee, Parties, the NAP global support programme for the LDCs and other relevant organizations.

E. Supplementary materials for the technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process

17. The LEG noted that different supplementary materials are being developed by different organizations, including the following:

(a) *Water Supplement to the Technical Guidelines: Supporting the National Adaptation Plan Process* by the Global Water Partnership;[9]

(b) *Mainstreaming Gender in Health Adaptation to Climate Change Programmes* by the World Health Organization (WHO);[10]

(c) *How to Engage with National Adaptation Plans: Guidance for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;[11]

(d) *Supporting NAP Development with the PROVIA Guidance: A User Companion* developed by the Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA).[12]

18. The LEG also noted that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the International Organization for Migration, Conservation International and CARE International have communicated their plans to the LEG to develop supplementary materials.

19. The LEG agreed to disseminate widely its general recommendations for developing supplementary materials in order to promote common understanding and coherent approaches in developing the materials.

F. Technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan process

1. Information paper on how national adaptation plan processes can be supported in the least developed countries

20. The LEG discussed the elements of an information paper on how the NAP process can be supported in the LDCs. The LEG discussed that the paper could cover the following issues:

(a) Guiding principles of the NAP process as the basis for guiding the design and provision of support;

(b) Financial and technical support, including policy-related aspects;

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[9] Draft available at <http://tinyurl.com/pynkvxw>.

[10] Discussion draft available at <http://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/Mainstreaming_Gender_Climate.pdf>.

[11] <http://www.climatecentre.org/downloads/File/IFRCGeneva/IFRCNational AdaptionPlans.pdf>.

[12] <http://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/Climate/PROVIA-NAP-user-companion-2014.pdf>.

(c) Possible actors, including the GEF, for providing financial support for NAPs through the LDCF for the formulation of NAPs, and other bilateral and multilateral initiatives;

(d) Possible actors for providing technical support, including the LEG, the Adaptation Committee and the NAP global support programme for the LDCs;

(e) Considerations regarding the development and/or communication of a mandate and road map for the NAP process, as a way to facilitate coordination of support and actions at the national level;

(f) Possible flow of steps for a typical national process;

(g) Possible strategies for accessing support, such as through the packaging of specific activities of the NAP process for the purpose of writing project proposals for funding through the LDCF and other funding sources;

(h) Entry points for the monitoring and evaluation of the national process.

21. The LEG decided to develop the paper and disseminate it to various stakeholders in order to inform the design and provision of support to the LDCs on NAPs.

2. Supporting the national adaptation plan process through NAP Central

22. The LEG took note of ongoing progress on the development of NAP Central, including on the implementation of various components, such as:

(a) A master document library to house knowledge resources as well as tools and data for the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(b) A database of adaptation projects that would include adaptation priorities from national plans, and projects that are under implementation;

(c) NAPs and related outputs of the NAP processes as submitted by Parties;

(d) Information on regional centres and other partner organizations working on climate change adaptation, as well as on relevant projects and programmes;

(e) An interactive platform, such as a blog-based one, for countries to use to interact with each other and to comment on and discuss topics related to the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(f) A glossary of terms commonly used in the NAP process;

(g) Various portals/dashboards/wikis, such as those for the NAP global support programme for the LDCs, country-specific information, climate hazards by type (droughts, floods, etc.), information by sector, advanced search pages for tools, a data navigator, case studies, best practices and lessons learned.

23. The LEG also noted that a support group for the development of systems has been constituted and that the support group will assist in the identification and evaluation of content to be uploaded into the system. The LEG decided to aim for a fully functional prototype of the system by June 2014.

3. Outreach and awareness-raising on the application of the guidelines for the national adaptation plans

24. The technical guidelines are available in three languages (English, French and Portuguese). Hard copies and CD-ROMs can be obtained from the secretariat and can be

viewed online as part of NAP Central.[13] The LEG continues to disseminate the technical guidelines to Parties and different stakeholders during its events and the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the COP.

25. The LEG discussed further efforts to enhance outreach and awareness on the application of the guidelines for NAPs by countries, as well as organizations and agencies that are providing support to the countries on NAPs. As a next step, and following recommendations from the technical meeting on NAPs, the LEG decided to develop and disseminate a quick guide to the guidelines for NAPs, including a glossary of commonly used terms and answers to frequently asked questions in English, French and Portuguese. These publications would be part of a series of NAP briefs.

4. Progress reports on support to the national adaptation plan process

26. The LEG discussed progress reports on support to the NAP process provided by United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, regional centres and networks, in response to its decision to collect such information on a regular basis.[14]

27. The following are selected highlights of support given to the LDCs on the NAP process between September 2013 and February 2014:

(a) The LEG continues to disseminate technical guidelines for the NAP process, and continues to advance tools, case studies and methods to provide support to the LDCs on NAPs. A paper describing the tool for monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness and gaps (the PEG M&E tool) of the NAP process is being finalized. NAP Central is undergoing further development, and a full prototype is planned for launch in June 2014. A strategy on training on NAPs has been developed and will guide the LEG regional training workshops on NAPs. A quick guide to the guidelines for NAPs and an information paper on how the NAP process can be supported in the LDCs are under preparation;

(b) The NAP global support programme for the LDCs has conducted in-country missions in four LDCs (namely, Benin, Gambia, Malawi and Rwanda) to familiarize governments with the NAP process and start discussions on entry points. A regional training workshop for Asian LDCs took place from 17 to 20 February 2014 in Pattaya, Thailand. The next workshops are planned for the anglophone African, francophone African, and Pacific regions. The NAP global support programme for the LDCs has also started to provide targeted technical support to individual countries. Some of the partners involved are developing specialized tools and material to support the LDCs under specific elements of the NAP process or within particular thematic areas;

(c) Various organizations, including FAO, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and WHO, have communicated ongoing programmes that would directly contribute towards strengthening the capacity of the LDCs in launching the NAP process. The support ranges from data and information at the sectoral levels to sector-specific methods and tools, and includes programmes for strengthening capacity in managing the NAP process and for integrating climate change adaptation into sectoral policies and programmes, as well as into relevant planning processes and strategies.

[13] <http://unfccc.int/nap/>.
[14] FCCC/SBI/2013/15.

G. Best practices and lessons learned

28. The LEG discussed progress made on revision of methodologies for capturing and sharing best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs.

29. The revision of the methodologies will contribute towards the following:

(a) The harmonization of approaches under the Convention on the collection of adaptation-related best practices and lessons learned;

(b) The integration of new findings and the application of the methodologies in the preparation of the third volume of the publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs and other outreach products and online platforms, including NAP Central.

30. The LEG took note of the workplan of the advisory group on this work, which involves a two-stage process: first, to revise methodologies covering identification, documentation, validation and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned, and second, to apply the revised methodologies. Initial activities include undertaking mapping and analysis of existing methodologies, such as those that describe a process, and the identification of core selection criteria common to all best practices and lessons learned in adaptation and closely related fields of work. This analysis will then be used to propose a revised methodology for application in adaptation workstreams, including NAPs, NAPAs, the LDC work programme, the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and relevant work conducted by the Adaptation Committee.

H. Gender and other considerations regarding vulnerable communities within the least developed countries

31. The LEG discussed a draft publication on strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs. The draft publication had received inputs from gender experts from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Women's Environment and Development Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad and CARE International.

32. The LEG discussed key recommendations on the consideration of gender in the NAP process, including the need for, inter alia:

(a) Assessments and other activities under the NAP process to enable the explicit consideration of issues based on gender because climate change impacts men and women differently in most communities;

(b) The NAP process to lead to a gender-sensitive approach to adaptation planning and implementation, and that this could be reflected in the mandate and communication strategy for the NAP process;

(c) Countries to elaborate and clearly communicate the meaning and context of gender based on their national circumstances so as to avoid unintended biases;

(d) Data and information for the NAP process to be disaggregated by sex where possible and applicable, and for the assessment of the NAP process to include relevant indicators on gender;

(e) Education, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities to address separately the needs of women, men, and vulnerable groups.

33. The LEG decided to finalize and publish the paper based on the discussions and the recommendations mentioned above, and the inputs from the technical meeting on NAPs.

34. The LEG also discussed plans for developing the publication on strengthening the considerations of vulnerable communities in adaptation planning and implementation. It agreed to also engage other experts in developing the publication.

I. Monitoring and evaluation of the national adaptation plan process

35. The LEG discussed a draft technical paper on a tool for the monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps (the PEG M&E tool) for the NAP process. The tool builds on the 10 essential functions of the NAP process.[15] The essential functions serve as means of summarizing how the NAP process will support efforts on adaptation planning and implementation at the national level. The tool may assist in monitoring and reviewing progress in each of the essential functions, and it proposes generic metrics that are applicable for monitoring and reviewing the NAP process at an aggregated level.

36. The LEG clarified that the PEG M&E tool is designed to assist countries in managing the NAP process, and would complement efforts to monitor and evaluate the outcomes and impacts of adaptation activities.

37. The LEG decided to finalize the paper taking into account inputs from the technical meeting on NAPs, and to invite reviews by external experts. It further decided that the tool should be tested through case studies with countries and in collaboration with relevant partners and organizations.

J. Support for coherence and synergy of adaptation under the Convention

1. Ongoing participation of representatives of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in other bodies under the Convention

38. The LEG took note of the participation of LEG members in a number of bodies and programmes under the Convention, as follows:

(a) The LEG serves in the Adaptation Committee's task force on NAPs, and is represented by Mr. Thinley Namgyel (Bhutan);

(b) The LEG continues to take part, upon invitation, in the meetings and events of the Technology Executive Committee related to adaptation technologies;

(c) In accordance with the terms of reference of the LEG,[16] two LEG members, currently Mr. Manyika and Mr. Jan Verhagen (Netherlands), are also members of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

39. The LEG also noted that the Adaptation Committee serves in the LEG advisory group on the revision of methodologies for best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs, and in the support group on the development of NAP Central. Respective members of the Adaptation Committee are Mr. Juan Hoffmaister (Plurinational State of Bolivia) and Mr. Fredrick Kossam (Malawi).

40. The LEG reiterated the following imperatives related to collaboration and/or engagement with other bodies under the Convention:

[15] FCCC/SBI/2013/15.

[16] Decision 29/CP.7, annex.

(a) Collaboration should seek to maximize synergies with the work of the LEG;

(b) LEG members should provide updates to the LEG on their collaboration and/or engagement with other bodies;

(c) LEG members should continue to explore activities that could enhance synergy in providing technical guidance and advice to the LDCs.

2. Mandate for members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group serving on the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism

41. The LEG nominated two of its members, Mr. Matti Nummelin (Finland) and Ms. Pepetua Latasi (Tuvalu), to the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts in response to decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 4. The two LEG members may seek inputs and support from the LEG, as appropriate. They would provide updates to the LEG on their engagement in the Executive Committee.

3. Revision of the technical paper on regional synergy

42. The LEG discussed a draft revised technical paper on regional synergy. The paper provided relevant arrangements for regional synergy in addressing adaptation under the Convention, opportunities and barriers to regional synergy in adaptation, and the lessons learned on regional synergy in the preparation and implementation of NAPAs. It provided considerations for exploring regional synergy in the formulation and implementation of NAPs. It placed a focus on the role of regional centres and networks in promoting regional synergy.

43. The LEG provided additional enhancements to the paper, including a balanced set of examples on regional synergy across the geographical regions, and references and linkages to relevant work under regional political entities such as regional economic communities, United Nations organizations and other international organizations. It decided to conduct regional case studies to further explore how regional synergy can be pursued in the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

44. The LEG decided to finalize the paper and have it included in the guidance tools for NAPs.

4. Revision of the technical paper on synergy among multilateral environmental agreements

45. The LEG discussed an outline for the revised technical paper on synergy among multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The outline included relevant arrangements for synergy among MEAs under the Rio Conventions, lessons learned from the NAPAs and other processes (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification national action plans, Convention on Biological Diversity national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the joint liaison group among the secretariats of the Rio Conventions, and relevant work of other United Nations organizations), opportunities for and barriers to synergy among MEAs, and ways and means to promote synergy among MEAs in the formulation and implementation of NAPs, including the role of the LEG in promoting synergy in the LDCs.

46. The LEG decided to develop the paper based on the outline, and to expand the scope as necessary.

K. Mobilization of organizations, regional centres and networks

47. The technical meeting on NAPs is the latest event of the LEG that involved mobilization of various organizations, regional centres and networks. The meeting involved experts from:

(a) United Nations organizations;

(b) Support programmes for NAPs;

(c) Regional centres and networks;

(d) The private sector;

(e) LDCs;

(f) Academia.

48. The LEG decided to continue to mobilize relevant organizations and experts in the conduct of its work.

L. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies

49. The LEG noted the continuing efforts to engage the GEF and its agencies in supporting the LDCs. Recent engagements included the LEG side event on NAPAs and NAPs that was held at COP 19, and the LEG technical meeting on NAPs.

50. The LEG solicited inputs from the GEF and its agencies on updates on progress on the preparation and implementation of NAPAs. Relevant information is provided in paragraphs 6–9 above.

51. Representatives of the NAP global support programme for the LDCs provided an update on its activities to the LEG. A summary of the activities carried out between September 2013 and February 2014 is provided in paragraph 27 above. The NAP global support programme for the LDCs has further plans to continue to engage more LDCs to assist with the initiation of the NAP process, including through regional workshops and individual country support.

M. In-depth case studies in the least developed countries

52. The technical meeting on NAPs included case studies on NAPs as an integral part of the programme of the meeting. The LEG invited local experts from ministries and organizations involved in adaptation planning and implementation in the United Republic of Tanzania to take part in a case study. The experts provided key information on their work on adaptation, which covered the following key issues:

(a) Progress on the development of a road map and strategy for the NAP process;

(b) Relevant enabling frameworks for climate change adaptation, including a law that requires different agencies to formulate action plans to address climate change;

(c) Coordination and collaboration between the Vice-President's Office as the leading agency and different ministries on the development of climate change strategies and plans;

(d) Guidelines for different ministries and stakeholders at the national level on addressing climate change;

(e) Progress and experiences in the development of sectoral plans on agriculture by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives and on water by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

53. The LEG also engaged LDC experts from Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Gambia, Kiribati, Sudan and Zambia. The experts shared experiences on work related to NAPs in their countries as follows:

(a) Burkina Faso has sectoral adaptation plans on agriculture, livestock, health, infrastructure and settlements, environment and natural resources, and energy; a draft NAP has been developed and is being reviewed by various stakeholders;

(b) Cambodia has well-established institutional arrangements for national work on climate change, including a national committee for the NAP process, and has recently launched a climate change strategy for 2014–2023, which will form a good foundation for the NAP process;

(c) The Gambia has a number of ongoing activities that will be aligned through the NAP process, for which a national team has been constituted. The next step is the development of a national road map for the NAP process;

(d) Kiribati has developed a joint national action plan on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and hence is ready to embrace the NAP process to coordinate overall adaptation work;

(e) The Sudan has established institutional arrangements for the NAP process in all states, which has facilitated the development of subnational plans that have been assembled into a NAP that will be published soon;

(f) Zambia has started discussions on the launch of a formulation of a NAP; key considerations include the coordination mechanism, careful prioritizing of adaptation in development planning, ensuring the NAP process is grounded on detailed studies, and comprehensive capacity-building, data and modelling.

54. The LEG further conducted one-to-one discussions with the countries mentioned in paragraph 53 above so as to gather information on their experiences and on support needs for their next steps. The countries mostly pointed to the need for the LEG to support national level activities, including through the use of tailor-made materials, in awareness-raising, training and capacity-building.

55. The information provided by the countries mentioned in paragraph 53 above and their engagement throughout the discussions helped in the development of sample flows of steps for the NAP process. The LEG agreed to continue to actively engage the LDCs in its work to provide better information on approaches for technical guidance and support.

III. Work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2014–2015

56. The LEG reviewed the progress made in implementing its work programme for 2013–2014. In addition to the existing activities, which are either under implementation or will be implemented in 2014, the LEG identified new activities as part of its two-year rolling work programme for 2014–2015.

57. In line with previous approaches, the LEG decided to use the following complementary approaches for the implementation of its work programme for 2014–2015:

(a) Development of a comprehensive strategy for future training on NAPs that would include revision and expansion of topics to be covered, and development of learning

materials for use in regional training workshops or in training activities conducted at the national level, including those that can be delivered through e-learning, and of materials suitable for training of trainers. These materials would be developed in collaboration with other organizations;

(b) Implementation of in-depth case studies in the LDCs that address topics and issues covered in the LEG work programme to provide information on and enrich and test the various products under development (e.g. technical papers, tools and information systems);

(c) Development of technical and information papers to provide information on the work of the LEG on NAPAs, the LDC work programme and the NAP process, including through NAP briefs, which would be short notes designed to communicate with the broadest of audiences;

(d) Development of NAP Central to facilitate outreach and support efforts of the LEG and to offer a platform for the exchange of experiences and interactions among NAP teams;

(e) Deliberation on some of the activities of the LEG at technical meetings, with participation of technical experts.

Annex I

Two-year rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2014–2015

Main activities	*Output/activity type/timing*
Objective 1: provide technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan (NAP) process in the least developed countries (LDCs)[a]	
Expected result: the LDCs are effectively supported in the launching of, and in making progress under, their NAP process	
Develop and disseminate a quick guide to the guidelines for NAPs, including a glossary of commonly used terms and answers to frequently asked questions on NAPs, in English, French and Portuguese	Publications by June 2014
Develop materials for use by countries at national levels on awareness and training activities in the NAP process	Technical materials by August 2014
Organize NAP Expo in 2014	NAP Expo, 2014
Develop a learning guide and e-learning resources on NAPs for use in the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) training on NAPs	Training guide by August 2014
Respond to individual requests from Parties for support on the NAP process, including through the provision of comments and feedback on draft NAPs, and the sharing of experience and lessons learned	Technical support, upon request
Continue to compile and analyse support needs for the NAP process, on an ongoing basis, including through questionnaires to Parties during the subsidiary body sessions and other relevant events	Information presented in LEG reports to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)
Expected result: collaboration with other organizations leads to coordinated and effective support to the LDCs on NAPs	
Collaborate with a wide range of organizations through various modalities, such as technical meetings, and sharing of relevant information and materials on the NAP process	Collaboration, ongoing
Prepare and disseminate an information paper on how the NAP process can be supported in the LDCs	Information paper, April 2014
Conduct regional training workshops on NAPs for the LDCs	Training workshops, 2014–2015

Main activities	*Output/activity type/timing*
Objective 2: provide support to the LDCs on the preparation, revision/update and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs)[b]	
Expected result: the LDCs are effectively supported in the implementation of NAPAs	
Continue to invite the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its agencies, relevant organizations and experts to the LEG meetings and events to explore the issues faced by some LDCs in implementing NAPAs, and to provide information to the SBI on ways and means to address these issues, with a view to enhancing the implementation of NAPAs	Information presented in LEG reports to the SBI
Expected result: the LDCs are assisted in the preparation, revision and update of their NAPAs	
Respond to individual requests for support in the preparation, revision and update of NAPAs, including through the provision of comments and feedback on draft NAPAs and draft revised and updated NAPAs, and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned	Technical support
Objective 3: support knowledge management and outreach in supporting adaptation planning, prioritization and implementation in the LDCs	
Expected result: the LDCs are effectively supported through enhanced access to the best available information useful for their adaptation efforts	
Continue to further develop NAP Central to serve as a universally accessible web-based central repository and hub for information pertinent to the NAP process	Ongoing, full prototype by June 2014
Revise methodologies for capturing and sharing best practices and lessons learned in the LDCs	Methodologies, June 2014
Prepare and disseminate the third volume of the publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs in English, French and Portuguese	Publication, October 2014
Communicate complementary key information to the LDCs, through regular notes, in response to key concerns (such as on accessing funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund), in cooperation with the GEF and its agencies	Information notes to the LDCs, ongoing

Main activities	*Output/activity type/timing*
Objective 4: provide guidance and advice on the integration of adaptation into development planning and on strengthening gender related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs[d]	
Expected result: the LDCs are effectively assisted in their efforts to integrate gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities in adaptation	
Complete and disseminate an information paper on strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs	Publication, April 2014
Develop and disseminate an information paper on strengthening considerations regarding vulnerable communities in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs	Publication, November 2014
Objective 5: promote the quality and achievement of results through support for the monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps in the context of NAPAs, NAPs and the LDC work programme in the LDCs[e]	
Expected result: support for monitoring the impact and effectiveness of efforts to address vulnerability is provided	
Develop a technical paper describing the tool for the monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps (the PEG M&E tool)	Technical paper, June 2014
Compile and analyse information to monitor progress and effectiveness, and identify gaps in the implementation of NAPAs, the LDC work programme and NAPs	Compilation, monitoring and analysis, ongoing
Convene a meeting involving representatives of Parties, the GEF and its agencies, and other relevant organizations with the assistance of the secretariat in order to take stock of the work of the LEG before June 2015	Meeting by June 2015
Objective 6: support the implementation of the LDC work programme[f]	
Expected result: implementation of the LDC work programme is effectively facilitated	
Develop and disseminate an information paper on examples of the application of adaptation technologies in adaptation planning and implementation, in collaboration with the Technology Executive Committee	Information paper, November 2014
Continue to collaborate with the GEF and its agencies and other organizations on ways to support the	Technical support, ongoing

Main activities	*Output/activity type/timing*
LDCs in implementing the LDC work programme, including through ways proposed in the report on the 21st meeting of the LEG (FCCC/SBI/2012/7, paragraphs 31–45)	
Objective 7: promote synergy of adaptation related efforts under the Convention[a]	
Expected result: coherence in support to the LDCs is promoted under the Convention, regionally and with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)	
Complete and disseminate a technical paper on regional synergy in addressing adaptation in the LDCs	Technical paper, June 2014
Complete and disseminate a technical paper on synergy among MEAs in addressing adaptation in the LDCs	Technical paper, October 2014
Continue to collaborate with the Adaptation Committee, including on revision of methodologies for capturing and sharing best practices and lessons learned, and further development of NAP Central, NAP Expo, training on NAPs, and the Adaptation Committee task force on NAPs	Collaboration, ongoing
Participate in the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts as mandated by decision 2/CP.19	Collaboration, ongoing
Continue collaboration with other bodies under the Convention, including the Technology Executive Committee, the Standing Committee on Finance and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	Collaboration, ongoing

[a] Decision 5/CP.17, paragraphs 13 and 14.
[b] Decisions 29/CP.7, 4/CP.11, paragraph 2, 8/CP.13, paragraph 4, and 6/CP.16, paragraphs 1 and 2.
[c] Decisions 29/CP.7, 4/CP.11, paragraph 2, 8/CP.13, paragraph 4, 6/CP.16, paragraphs 1 and 2, and 5/CP.17, paragraphs 13 and 14.
[d] Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 2(a).
[e] Decisions 29/CP.7, 6/CP.16 and 5/CP.17.
[f] Decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 2.
[g] Decisions 29/CP.7, 5/CP.17, paragraph 17, and 1/CP.18, paragraphs 55 and 56.

Annex II

Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 28 February 2014

Mr. Abias Huongo	Angola
Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
Mr. Thinley Namgyel	Bhutan
Mr. Matti Nummelin	Finland
Mr. Mphethe Tongwane	Lesotho
Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
Mr. Jan Verhagen	Netherlands
Ms. Marianne Karlsen	Norway
Mr. Douglas Yee	Solomon Islands
Mr. Paul Abiziou Tchinguilou	Togo
Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi	Tuvalu
Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania